

TOP SECRET

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

WORKING PAPER

Honorable Charles Shultz
Director, Bureau of the Budget
Washington, D. C.

Dear Charlie:

Since the President's decision to deploy OXCART aircraft to Kadena, we have considered two alternatives to phasing down the OXCART program. One is to defer mothballing aircraft at this time, but to phase out all aircraft by January 1, 1968. The other is to continue the program indefinitely. The first alternative costs approximately in FY68. Indefinite continuation would cost

After reviewing these alternatives and discussing them with Dick Helms, I have approved a plan calling for two A-12's to be mothballed in July 1967, three in November, and four in January 1968. In addition, I have directed SAC to be ready to assume the Kadena mission as of December 1, 1967.

This plan will provide adequate resources for the reconnaissance of North Vietnam as directed by the President and will implement his January 1967 decision to eliminate the OXCART program.

Sincerely yours,

OSD REVIEW COMPLETED

OXCART